

Raising Awareness of Domestic Violence:

Domestic violence is a serious and under-reported problem. It affects around one in four women in their lifetime. Since Davie Domestic Violence Services & Rape Crisis Center was created in 1996, the agency has worked with an average 1 in 6.7 households in the Davie County (and that is just the *reported* statistics).

Prevention and early intervention is crucial when tackling domestic violence. An important part of this is changing attitudes, particularly those of young people. Alerting school-age children to the unacceptability of domestic violence can discourage them from offending later in life.

Raising awareness about domestic violence means that people are better equipped to offer help and support to domestic violence victims. Although awareness of the problem is growing, there are many people, including men, who continue to suffer in silence. Help us to make a difference in the lives of our neighbors, our children, our co-workers, and our friends. Domestic Violence knows no boundaries.

A survivor from domestic violence said: "This service can make all the difference between carrying on to make a new life or just wanting to end it all. People don't really understand what domestic violence is all about; they have an image of a woman walking around with black eyes. They don't recognize the psychological harm and that's what you carry with you".



HOW DO YOU STOP DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

One way to stop domestic violence is to truly understand what it's all about. Domestic Violence is about power and control. It is NOT a family matter, it is NOT because the woman is too weak to get out, and it is NOT about physical abuse alone. Domestic violence is a pattern of abusive behaviors. It includes verbal, mental, emotional, and sexual abuse. Domestic violence is of any age, race, gender, or culture. It is part of the rich and poor. There is no "face" to domestic violence.

Domestic violence is learned behavior. This is the number one cause of domestic violence. Kids who live in an abusive environment will grow up being abusive themselves. Fifty percent of men who assault their wives also abuse their children - it is a cycle that must be broken. To stop domestic violence, STOP the violence within your home. Take those kids out and do what needs to be done to stop the violence.

We all know someone who is being abused; a friend, family member, yourself, and a neighbor. If you live in an area where you hear someone being hurt - call 911. These calls are private and confidential. You can save a life; you can help stop domestic violence by one phone call.